

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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O R 161407Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6997

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: AVEROFF COMMENT ON TURKISH REACTION

1. ATHENS PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTED FOLLOWING COMMENT BY MINDEF AVEROFF JANUARY 16 OCCASIONED BY ADVERSE TURKISH REACTION TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT MILITANTLY DEFENDING GREEK POSITION IN AEGEAN: "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S PEACEFUL POLICY, AND THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY ME IN THE PAST IN BRINGING ABOUT CLOSER GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, ARE SO WELL-KNOWN THAT I FEEL JUSTIFIED IN SAYING THAT ONLY WHEN PRETEXTS ARE SOUGHT CAN TURKEY'S MANIFEST OVERDOSE OF NATIONAL SENSITIVITY BE JUSTIFIED."

2. AVEROFF COMMENT SEEMS TO REFLECT GREEK HOPE OF CUTTING OFF ANY POSSIBLE ADVERSE VIBRATIONS FROM EARLIER GREEK-TURKISH EXCHANGE ON RESPECTIVE AEGEAN RIGHTS AND HELP DISPEL RUMORS SUCH AS THOSE THAT FLOODED ATHENS AND THESSALONIKI EARLIER TODAY TO EFFECT TURKS HAD SUNK GREEK SHIP IN AEGEAN. THIS PARTICULAR RUMOR REACHED SUCH PROPORTIONS THAT GOG FELT COMPELLED TO ISSUE OFFICIAL DENIAL ON GREEK RADIO AT 1300 AS FOLLOW: "BECAUSE CERTAIN RUMORS

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ARE BEING SPREAD ABOUT THE TAKING OF ALLEGED EXTRAORDINARY

MEASURES AND, GENERALLY, ABOUT A DANGEROUS WORSENING OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, FROM AN AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT SOURCE IT IS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL SUCH RUMORS ARE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED."

3. IN FACT, AVEROFF FELT COMPELLED TO CALL ME PERSONALLY ABOUT AN HOUR AGO TO SAY THAT THE RUMORS CURRENT IN ATHENS ABOUT A GREEK MOBILIZATION ARE TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. KUBISCH

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